

# EL MORRO

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December 2009

## Fort Buchanan celebrates the Holidays



Photo by: Rosie Irizarry  
Visual Information Section, DPTMS

Santa Claus listened carefully while Mrs. Claus paid attention to this important conversation between the little boy and her husband, while Mom observes. Children of all ages, and children at heart, had a wonderful time during Fort Buchanan's 2009 Holiday Celebration by the theme of "Holiday on Ice" held Dec. 4 at the Community Club & Conference Center parking area. More photos on pages 10-11.



Fort Buchanan honors Veterans at Remembrance Ceremony

Story on page 9



1st Mission Support Command troops come back for the Holidays

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# FROM THE COMMANDER:



Col. Edwin C. Domingo  
Garrison Commander

sharing some gifts. These gifts have something in common. They are the Seven Core Army Values. These are gifts that in one way or the other, we symbolically received from you since we arrived at "la Isla del Encanto, Puerto Rico."

The first value is Loyalty. Bear true faith and allegiance to the U.S. Constitution, the Army, your unit and other Soldiers. Bearing true faith and allegiance is a matter of believing in and devoting yourself to something or someone. This is the gift of being loyal not only to our family, our friends, our community, and our nation; but most important it is the gift of being loyal to who you are, to

given. It is earned. You earn it by trusting that all people will do their best in everything they do. It will show in the pride of a job well done, by all of us, as a team, as a family.

The fourth value is Selfless Service, putting the welfare of the Nation, the Army, and your subordinates before your own. Selfless service is larger than just one person. It is the gift of serving without thought of recognition or gain. It is when "I" becomes "We" and "You" becomes "Us." On our free will, we take a step further to lead and help others fulfill their goals, their dreams, to help them believe in themselves and see what we can accomplish.

trust others place in you. The more choices you make based on integrity, the more this highly prized value will affect your relationships with your community, family and friends.

The seventh value is Personal Courage. Face fear, danger, or adversity (physical and moral). In times when everything evolves around the individual and personal satisfaction, it takes a lot of courage to continue forward on the right path; enduring physical struggles; facing moral fear or adversity; risking who you are by taking actions not popular with others; and standing by your values. It is the gift of giving the best of you in everything you do.

blessings – our service men and women who bravely serve our country around the world; our families, for their health and prosperity; our old and new friends, like our neighbors and tenants, for their support to our community; and our children, for this is the season and the reason we serve. For everything we learned, the friendships we made and all the blessings we received. Thank you.

De parte de mi familia, mi esposa Rebecca, mis hijos Emmanuel, Ervin, Eric y Emily les deseamos muchas felicidades en esta Navidad y sobre todo paz y prosperidad en el Nuevo Año. ¡Felicidades!

December  
2009 —

A season for  
Giving

As we end another year, we reflect upon our past endeavors as members of the Fort Buchanan family. During this special time, we share the wonders of faith, charity, the spirit of goodwill and our hope for a future filled with promises.

The 2009 Holidays hold a special place in my family's heart, as we share with you - our Fort Buchanan family - our last Holiday Celebration. During our time at Fort Buchanan we learned many lessons and counted many blessings everyday. In the spirit of the Holidays, me, my wife Rebecca, and my children Emmanuel, Ervin, Eric and Emily, would like to show you our appreciation for your support by



your values, to yourself.

The second value, Duty, tells us about fulfilling our obligations. Doing our duty means more than carrying out our everyday tasks. It is the gift of accepting responsibility for our actions and those entrusted to us. It is the rewarding experience of exceeding even our own expectations, striving for the challenge, going above and beyond the call of duty.

The third value is Respect. Treat people as they should be treated. It is more than the Golden Rule. It is what allows us to appreciate the best in others. Of all the gifts, this is very special because it is not

The fifth value is Honor. Live up to the Army values. If you remember, the Nation's highest military award is "The Medal of Honor." This gift combines all the other gifts in one by letting honor being our way of life. It is also a gift you give everyday when you share something so precious like time by listening and being a leader, a father, a mother, a spouse, a friend.

The sixth value, Integrity, tells us to do what's right, legally and morally. It is willing to do what's right even when no one is looking. This gift brings us more gifts because as your integrity grows, so does the

These are the gifts that my family and I treasure the most and would like to share with you as we depart to say "Thank you" to the Soldiers, civilians and family members who each day demonstrate their commitment towards making this Army installation an example of a community of excellence, a great place to work and live.

As Fort Buchanan's Garrison Commander, no word could describe how proud I am of each and every one of you for the great work you do as a team, to accomplish our mission and to serve our nation at our best. In the spirit of the Holidays, let's take some time to count our

## Army Family Covenant

We recognize the commitment and increasing sacrifices that our families are making every day.

We recognize the strength of our Soldiers comes from the strength of their families.

We are committed to providing Soldiers and Families a Quality of Life that is commensurate with their service.

We are committed to providing our families a strong, supportive environment where they can thrive.

We are committed to building a partnership with Army Families that enhances their strength and resilience.

We are committed to improving Family readiness by —

- Standardizing and funding existing family programs and services.

- Increasing accessibility and quality of health care.

- Improving Soldier and Family housing.

- Ensuring excellence in schools, youth services and child care.

- Expanding education and employment opportunities for Family members.



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## President Obama's Holiday Message

The White House



In 1923, the Washington, D.C. Public Schools wrote a letter to the White House asking if they could put up a Christmas tree on the South Lawn. And First Lady Grace Coolidge said they could use the Ellipse. (Laughter.) And in the eight decades since — in times of war and peace, hardship and joy — Americans from every corner of this nation have gathered here to share in the holiday spirit.

Tonight, we celebrate a story that is as beautiful as it is simple. The story of a child born far from home to parents guided only by faith, but who would ultimately spread a message that has endured for more than 2,000 years — that no matter who we are or where we are from, we are each called to love one another as brother and sister.

While this story may be a Christian one, its lesson is universal. It speaks to the hope we share as a people. And it represents a tradition that we celebrate as a country — a tradition that has come to represent more than any one holiday or religion, but a season of brotherhood and generosity to our fellow citizens.

It's that spirit of unity that we must remember as we light the National Christmas Tree — a tree that will shine its light far beyond our city and our shores to every American around the world.

And that's why tonight our thoughts and prayers are with the men and

women who will be spending this holiday far from home — the mothers and fathers, the sons and daughters of our military who risk their lives every day to keep us safe. We will be thinking of you and praying for you during this holiday season.

And let's also remember our neighbors who are struggling here at home — those who've lost a job or a home; a friend or a loved one -- because even though it's easy to focus on receiving at this time of year, it's often in the simple act of giving that we find the greatest happiness. So on behalf of Michelle and Malia and Sasha and my mother-in-law, Mama Robinson -- I want to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas. May you go out with joy, and be led forth in peace.

Remarks presented by the President of the United States, Barack Obama at the National Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony

## Season's Greetings

## President in Address to the Nation on the Way Forward in Afghanistan and Pakistan

The White House

I want to speak to you tonight about our effort in Afghanistan -- the nature of our commitment there, the scope of our interests, and the strategy that my administration will pursue to bring this war to a successful conclusion. It's an extraordinary honor for me to do so here at West Point -- where so many men and women have prepared to stand up for our security, and to represent what is finest about our country.

To address these important issues, it's important to recall why America and our allies were compelled to fight a war in Afghanistan in the first place. We did not ask for this fight. On September 11, 2001, 19 men hijacked four airplanes and used them to murder nearly 3,000 people. They struck at our military and economic nerve centers. They took the lives of innocent men, women, and children without regard to their faith or race or station. Were it not for the heroic actions of passengers onboard one of those flights, they could have also struck at one of the great symbols of our democracy in Washington, and killed many more.

As we know, these men belonged to al Qaeda -- a group of extremists who have distorted and defiled Islam, one of the world's great religions, to justify the slaughter of innocents. Al Qaeda's base of operations was in Afghanistan, where they were harbored by the Taliban -- a ruthless, repressive and radical movement that seized control of that country after it was ravaged by years of Soviet occupation and civil war, and after the attention of America and our friends had turned elsewhere.

Just days after 9/11, Congress authorized the use of force against al Qaeda and those who harbored them -- an authorization that continues to this day. The vote in the Senate was 98 to nothing. The vote in the House was 420 to 1. For the first time in its history, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization invoked Article 5 -- the commitment that says an attack on one member nation is an attack on all. And the United Nations Security Council endorsed the use of all necessary steps to respond to the 9/11 attacks. America, our allies and the world were acting as one to destroy al Qaeda's terrorist network and to protect our common security.

Under the banner of this domestic unity and international legitimacy -- and only after the Taliban refused to turn over Osama bin Laden -- we sent our troops into Afghanistan. Within a matter of months, al Qaeda was scattered and many of its operatives were killed. The Taliban was driven from power and pushed back on its heels. A place that had known decades of fear now had reason to hope. At a conference convened by the U.N., a provisional government was established under President Hamid Karzai. And an International Security Assistance Force was established to help bring a lasting peace to a war-torn country.

Then, in early 2003, the decision was made to wage a second war, in Iraq. The wrenching debate over the Iraq war is well-known and need not be repeated here. It's enough to say that for the next six years, the Iraq war drew the dominant share of our troops, our resources, our diplomacy, and our national attention -- and that the decision to go into Iraq caused substantial rifts between America and much of the world.

Today, after extraordinary costs, we are bringing the Iraq

## Sec. Defense issues holiday message

American Forces Press Service



WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates today issued a holiday season message giving thanks to the military men and women who put their lives on the line every day.

"This time of year calls on Americans to reflect on and give thanks for the freedoms and prosperity we enjoy. Of course, we can only do so because of those who put their lives on the line every day: the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines who bear repeated deployments, hardships, and dan-

ger -- without fail and without complaint.

"Many have made the ultimate sacrifice. Our nation will always honor their memory. For the loved ones of the fallen, I offer my deepest sympathies and prayers for your loss. And, in the wake of the shootings at Fort Hood, know that I am committed to ensuring that our home bases are safe and secure.

"I know the holiday season can be especially difficult for service members and their families, who may be separated from each other by thousands of miles. To the families of our men and women in uniform: know that the American people are indebted to you for the sacrifices of your husbands and wives, fathers and mothers, and sons and daughters.

"This will be my third holiday season spent as Secretary of Defense. During these years nothing has impressed me as much as the determination, resilience and good humor of those who defend our nation. This holiday season, along with 'Happy Thanksgiving,' 'Happy Hanukkah,' and 'Merry Christmas,' I would add two words on behalf of millions of your countrymen: 'Thank you.'"

war to a responsible end. We will remove our combat brigades from Iraq by the end of next summer, and all of our troops by the end of 2011. That we are doing so is a testament to the character of the men and women in uniform. Thanks to their courage, grit and perseverance, we have given Iraqis a chance to shape their future, and we are successfully leaving Iraq to its people.

But while we've achieved hard-earned milestones in Iraq, the situation in Afghanistan has deteriorated. After escaping across the border into Pakistan in 2001 and 2002, al Qaeda's leadership established a safe haven there. Although a legitimate government was elected by the Afghan people, it's been hampered by corruption, the drug trade, an under-developed economy, and insufficient security forces.

Over the last several years, the Taliban has maintained common cause with al Qaeda, as they both seek an overthrow of the Afghan government. Gradually, the Taliban has begun to control additional swaths of territory in Afghanistan, while engaging in increasingly brazen and devastating attacks of terror-

ism against the Pakistani people.

Now, throughout this period, our troop levels in Afghanistan remained a fraction of what they were in Iraq. When I took office, we had just over 32,000 Americans serving in Afghanistan, compared to 160,000 in Iraq at the peak of the war. Commanders in Afghanistan repeatedly asked for support to deal with the reemergence of the Taliban, but these reinforcements did not arrive. And that's why, shortly after taking office, I approved a longstanding request for more troops. After consultations with our allies, I then announced a strategy recognizing the fundamental connection between our war effort in Afghanistan and the extremist safe havens in Pakistan. I set a goal that was narrowly defined as disrupting, dismantling, and defeating al Qaeda and its extremist allies, and pledged to better coordinate our military and civilian efforts.

Since then, we've made progress on some important objectives. High-ranking al Qaeda and Taliban leaders have been

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## Address to the Nation

killed, and we've stepped up the pressure on al Qaeda worldwide. In Pakistan, that nation's army has gone on its largest offensive in years. In Afghanistan, we and our allies prevented the Taliban from stopping a presidential election, and -- although it was marred by fraud -- that election produced a government that is consistent with Afghanistan's laws and constitution.

Yet huge challenges remain. Afghanistan is not lost, but for several years it has moved backwards. There's no imminent threat of the government being overthrown, but the Taliban has gained momentum. Al Qaeda has not reemerged in Afghanistan in the same numbers as before 9/11, but they retain their safe havens along the border. And our forces lack the full support they need to effectively train and partner with Afghan security forces and better secure the population. Our new commander in Afghanistan -- General McChrystal -- has reported that the security situation is more serious than he anticipated. In short: The status quo is not sustainable.

As cadets, you volunteered for service during this time of danger. Some of you fought in Afghanistan. Some of you will deploy there. As your Commander-in-Chief, I owe you a mission that is clearly defined, and worthy of your service. And that's why, after the Afghan voting was completed, I insisted on a thorough review of our strategy. Now, let me be clear: There has never been an option before me that called for troop deployments before 2010, so there has been no delay or denial of resources necessary for the conduct of the war during this review period. Instead, the review has allowed me to ask the hard questions, and to explore all the different options, along with my national security team, our military and civilian leadership in Afghanistan, and our key partners. And given the stakes involved, I owed the American people -- and our troops -- no less.

This review is now complete. And as Commander-in-Chief, I have determined that it is in our vital national interest to send an additional 30,000 U.S. troops to Afghanistan. After 18 months, our troops will begin to come home. These are the resources that we need to seize the initiative, while building the Afghan capacity that can allow for a responsible transition of our forces out of Afghanistan.

I do not make this decision lightly. I opposed the war in Iraq precisely because I believe that we must exercise restraint in the use of military force, and always consider the long-term consequences of our actions. We have been at war now for eight years, at enormous cost in lives and resources. Years of debate over Iraq and terrorism have left our unity on national security issues in tatters, and created a highly polarized and partisan backdrop for this effort. And having just experienced the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, the American people are understandably focused on rebuilding our economy and putting people to work here at home.

Most of all, I know that this decision asks even more of you -- a military that, along with your families, has already borne the heaviest of all burdens. As President, I have signed a letter of condolence to the family of each American who gives their life in these wars. I have read the letters from the parents and spouses of those who deployed. I visited our

courageous wounded warriors at Walter Reed. I've traveled to Dover to meet the flag-draped caskets of 18 Americans returning home to their final resting place. I see firsthand the terrible wages of war. If I did not think that the security of the United States and the safety of the American people were at stake in Afghanistan, I would gladly order every single one of our troops home tomorrow.

So, no, I do not make this decision lightly. I make this decision because I am convinced that our security is at stake in Afghanistan and Pakistan. This is the epicenter of violent extremism practiced by al Qaeda. It is from here that we were attacked on 9/11, and it is from here that new attacks are being plotted as I speak. This is no idle danger; no hypothetical threat. In the last few months alone, we have apprehended extremists within our borders who were sent here from the border region of Afghanistan and Pakistan to commit new acts of terror. And this danger will only grow if the region slides backwards, and al Qaeda can operate with impunity. We must keep the pressure on al Qaeda, and to do that, we must increase the stability and capacity of our partners in the region.

Of course, this burden is not ours alone to bear. This is not just America's war. Since 9/11, al Qaeda's safe havens have been the source of attacks against London and Amman and Bali. The people and governments of both Afghanistan and Pakistan are endangered. And the stakes are even higher within a nuclear-armed Pakistan, because we know that al Qaeda and other extremists seek nuclear weapons, and we have every reason to believe that they would use them.

These facts compel us to act along with our friends and allies. Our overarching goal remains the same: to disrupt, dismantle, and defeat al Qaeda in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and to prevent its capacity to threaten America and our allies in the future.

To meet that goal, we will pursue the following objectives within Afghanistan. We must deny al Qaeda a safe haven. We must reverse the Taliban's momentum and deny it the ability to overthrow the government. And we must strengthen the capacity of Afghanistan's security forces and government so that they can take lead responsibility for Afghanistan's future.

We will meet these objectives in three ways. First, we will pursue a military strategy that will break the Taliban's momentum and increase Afghanistan's capacity over the next 18 months.

The 30,000 additional troops that I'm announcing tonight will deploy in the first part of 2010 -- the fastest possible pace -- so that they can target the insurgency and secure key population centers. They'll increase our ability to train competent Afghan security forces, and to partner with them so that more Afghans can get into the fight. And they will help create the conditions for the United States to transfer responsibility to the Afghans.

Because this is an international effort, I've asked that our commitment be joined by contributions from our allies. Some have already provided additional troops, and we're confident that there will be further contributions in the days and weeks ahead. Our friends have fought and bled and died alongside us in Afghanistan. And now, we must come together to end this war successfully. For what's at stake is not simply a test of NATO's credibility -- what's at stake is the security of our allies, and the common security of the

world.

But taken together, these additional American and international troops will allow us to accelerate handing over responsibility to Afghan forces, and allow us to begin the transfer of our forces out of Afghanistan in July of 2011. Just as we have done in Iraq, we will execute this transition responsibly, taking into account conditions on the ground. We'll continue to advise and assist Afghanistan's security forces to ensure that they can succeed over the long haul. But it will be clear to the Afghan government -- and, more importantly, to the Afghan people -- that they will ultimately be responsible for their own country.

Second, we will work with our partners, the United Nations, and the Afghan people to pursue a more effective civilian strategy, so that the government can take advantage of improved security.

This effort must be based on performance. The days of providing a blank check are over. President Karzai's inauguration speech sent the right message about moving in a new direction. And going forward, we will be clear about what we expect from those who receive our assistance. We'll support Afghan ministries, governors, and local leaders that combat corruption and deliver for the people. We expect those who are ineffective or corrupt to be held accountable. And we will also focus our assistance in areas -- such as agriculture -- that can make an immediate impact in the lives of the Afghan people.

The people of Afghanistan have endured violence for decades. They've been confronted with occupation -- by the Soviet Union, and then by foreign al Qaeda fighters who used Afghan land for their own purposes. So tonight, I want the Afghan people to understand -- America seeks an end to this era of war and suffering. We have no interest in occupying your country. We will support efforts by the Afghan government to open the door to those Taliban who abandon violence and respect the human rights of their fellow citizens. And we will seek a partnership with Afghanistan grounded in mutual respect -- to isolate those who destroy; to strengthen those who build; to hasten the day when our troops will leave; and to forge a lasting friendship in which America is your partner, and never your patron.

Third, we will act with the full recognition that our success in Afghanistan is inextricably linked to our partnership with Pakistan.

We're in Afghanistan to prevent a cancer from once again spreading through that country. But this same cancer has also taken root in the border region of Pakistan. That's why we need a strategy that works on both sides of the border. In the past, there have been those in Pakistan who've argued that the struggle against extremism is not their fight, and that Pakistan is better off doing little or seeking accommodation with those who use violence. But in recent years, as innocents have been killed from Karachi to Islamabad, it has become clear that it is the Pakistani people who are the most endangered by extremism. Public opinion has turned. The Pakistani army has waged an offensive in Swat and South Waziristan. And there is no doubt that the United States and Pakistan share a common enemy.

In the past, we too often defined our relationship with Pakistan narrowly. Those days are over. Moving forward, we are

committed to a partnership with Pakistan that is built on a foundation of mutual interest, mutual respect, and mutual trust. We will strengthen Pakistan's capacity to target those groups that threaten our countries, and have made it clear that we cannot tolerate a safe haven for terrorists whose location is known and whose intentions are clear. America is also providing substantial resources to support Pakistan's democracy and development. We are the largest international supporter for those Pakistanis displaced by the fighting. And going forward, the Pakistan people must know America will remain a strong supporter of Pakistan's security and prosperity long after the guns have fallen silent, so that the great potential of its people can be unleashed.

These are the three core elements of our strategy: a military effort to create the conditions for a transition; a civilian surge that reinforces positive action; and an effective partnership with Pakistan.

I recognize there are a range of concerns about our approach. So let me briefly address a few of the more prominent arguments that I've heard, and which I take very seriously.

First, there are those who suggest that Afghanistan is another Vietnam. They argue that it cannot be stabilized, and we're better off cutting our losses and rapidly withdrawing. I believe this argument depends on a false reading of history. Unlike Vietnam, we are joined by a broad coalition of 43 nations that recognizes the legitimacy of our action. Unlike Vietnam, we are not facing a broad-based popular insurgency. And most importantly, unlike Vietnam, the American people were viciously attacked from Afghanistan, and remain a target for those same extremists who are plotting along its border. To abandon this area now -- and to rely only on efforts against al Qaeda from a distance -- would significantly hamper our ability to keep the pressure on al Qaeda, and create an unacceptable risk of additional attacks on our homeland and our allies.

Second, there are those who acknowledge that we can't leave Afghanistan in its current state, but suggest that we go forward with the troops that we already have. But this would simply maintain a status quo in which we muddle through, and permit a slow deterioration of conditions there. It would ultimately prove more costly and prolong our stay in Afghanistan, because we would never be able to generate the conditions needed to train Afghan security forces and give them the space to take over.

Finally, there are those who oppose identifying a time frame for our transition to Afghan responsibility. Indeed, some call for a more dramatic and open-ended escalation of our war effort -- one that would commit us to a nation-building project of up to a decade. I reject this course because it sets goals that are beyond what can be achieved at a reasonable cost, and what we need to achieve to secure our interests. Furthermore, the absence of a time frame for transition would deny us any sense of urgency in working with the Afghan government. It must be clear that Afghans will have to take responsibility for their security, and that America has no interest in fighting an endless war in Afghanistan.

As President, I refuse to set goals that go beyond our responsibility, our means, or our interests. And I must weigh all of the challenges that our nation faces. I don't have the luxury of committing to just one. Indeed, I'm mindful of the





## Sentinel of the Caribbean

### Address to the Nation

words of President Eisenhower, who -- in discussing our national security -- said, "Each proposal must be weighed in the light of a broader consideration: the need to maintain balance in and among national programs."

Over the past several years, we have lost that balance. We've failed to appreciate the connection between our national security and our economy. In the wake of an economic crisis, too many of our neighbors and friends are out of work and struggle to pay the bills. Too many Americans are worried about the future facing our children. Meanwhile, competition within the global economy has grown more fierce. So we can't simply afford to ignore the price of these wars.

All told, by the time I took office the cost of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan approached a trillion dollars. Going forward, I am committed to addressing these costs openly and honestly. Our new approach in Afghanistan is likely to cost us roughly \$30 billion for the military this year, and I'll work closely with Congress to address these costs as we work to bring down our deficit.

But as we end the war in Iraq and transition to Afghan responsibility, we must rebuild our strength here at home. Our prosperity provides a foundation for our power. It pays for our military. It underwrites our diplomacy. It taps the potential of our people, and allows investment in new industry. And it will allow us to compete in this century as successfully as we did in the last. That's why our troop commitment in Afghanistan cannot be open-ended -- because the nation that I'm most interested in building is our own. Now, let me be clear: None of this will be easy. The struggle against violent extremism will not be finished quickly, and it extends well beyond Afghanistan and Pakistan. It will be an enduring test of our free society, and our leadership in the world. And unlike the great power conflicts and clear lines of division that defined the 20th century, our effort will involve disorderly regions, failed states, diffuse enemies.

So as a result, America will have to show our strength in the way that we end wars and prevent conflict -- not just how we wage wars. We'll have to be nimble and precise in our use of military power. Where al Qaeda and its allies attempt to establish a foothold -- whether in Somalia or Yemen or elsewhere -- they must be confronted by growing pressure and strong partnerships.

And we can't count on military might alone. We have to invest in our homeland security, because we can't capture or kill every violent extremist abroad. We have to improve and better coordinate our intelligence, so that we stay one step ahead of shadowy networks.

We will have to take away the tools of mass destruction. And that's why I've made it a central pillar of my foreign policy to secure loose nuclear materials from terrorists, to stop the spread of nuclear weapons, and to pursue the goal of a world without them -- because every nation must understand that true security will never come from an endless race for ever more destructive weapons; true security will come for those who reject them.

We'll have to use diplomacy, because no one nation can meet the challenges of an interconnected world acting alone. I've spent this year renewing our alliances and forging new partnerships. And

we have forged a new beginning between America and the Muslim world -- one that recognizes our mutual interest in breaking a cycle of conflict, and that promises a future in which those who kill innocents are isolated by those who stand up for peace and prosperity and human dignity.

And finally, we must draw on the strength of our values -- for the challenges that we face may have changed, but the things that we believe in must not. That's why we must promote our values by living them at home -- which is why I have prohibited torture and will close the prison at Guantanamo Bay. And we must make it clear to every man, woman and child around the world who lives under the dark cloud of tyranny that America will speak out on behalf of their human rights, and tend to the light of freedom and justice and opportunity and respect for the dignity of all peoples. That is who we are. That is the source, the moral source, of America's authority.

Since the days of Franklin Roosevelt, and the service and sacrifice of our grandparents and great-grandparents, our country has borne a special burden in global affairs. We have spilled American blood in many countries on multiple continents. We have spent our revenue to help others rebuild from rubble and develop their own economies. We have joined with others to develop an architecture of institutions -- from the United Nations to NATO to the World Bank -- that provide for the common security and prosperity of human beings.

We have not always been thanked for these efforts, and we have at times made mistakes. But more than any other nation, the United States of America has underwritten global security for over six decades -- a time that, for all its problems, has seen walls come down, and markets open, and billions lifted from poverty, unparalleled scientific progress and advancing frontiers of human liberty.

For unlike the great powers of old, we have not sought world domination. Our union was founded in resistance to oppression. We do not seek to occupy other nations. We will not claim another nation's resources or target other peoples because their faith or ethnicity is different from ours. What we have fought for -- what we continue to fight for -- is a better future for our children and grandchildren. And we believe that their lives will be better if other peoples' children and grandchildren can live in freedom and access opportunity.

As a country, we're not as young -- and perhaps not as innocent -- as we were when Roosevelt was President. Yet we are still heirs to a noble struggle for freedom. And now we must summon all of our might and moral suasion to meet the challenges of a new age.

In the end, our security and leadership does not come solely from the strength of our arms. It derives from our people -- from the workers and businesses who will rebuild our economy; from the entrepreneurs and researchers who will pioneer new industries; from the teachers that will educate our children, and the service of those who work in our communities at home; from the diplomats and Peace Corps volunteers who spread hope abroad; and from the men and women in uniform who are part of an unbroken line of sacrifice that has made government of the people, by the people, and for the people a reality on this Earth.

This vast and diverse citizenry will not always agree on every issue -- nor should we. But I also know that we, as

## Resourcing the Army Home: Installation Funding Levels on the Decline

El Morro Staff



WASHINGTON, D.C. -- In recent years, the Army and its Installations have enjoyed unprecedented levels of funding. In fiscal year 2008, the Army hit a high water mark in its fiscal history with a total annual budget exceeding \$250 billion -- three times more than FY2001 funding level.

Much of this growth is attributed to funding the war, rebalancing our Army through investments in Army's force structure, equipment, infrastructure, and key Soldier and Family programs.

Funding levels of this magnitude are unsustainable year after the year, and as the country faces some stiff economic challenges, we are forced to reduce funding and exact a greater level of stewardship over our resources.

The Installation Management Command -- like other commands throughout our Army -- will operate at reduced funding levels. This means that starting in 2010, performance levels for some installation services will be notably less than what we have had in recent years and will remain at that level for the foreseeable future.

Our challenge is to ensure those key, higher priority programs across our installations do not suffer. We will maintain our full support to Life, Health and Safety programs, the Army Family Covenant and those services that prepare our Soldier and their Families for deployment in support

a country, cannot sustain our leadership, nor navigate the momentous challenges of our time, if we allow ourselves to be split asunder by the same rancor and cynicism and partisanship that has in recent times poisoned our national discourse.

It's easy to forget that when this war began, we were united -- bound together by the fresh memory of a horrific attack, and by the determination to defend our homeland and the values we hold dear. I refuse to accept the notion that we cannot summon that unity again.

I believe with every fiber of my being that we -- as Americans -- can still come together behind a common purpose. For our values are not simply words written into parchment -- they are a creed that calls us together, and that has carried us through the darkest of storms as one nation, as one people.

America -- we are passing through a time of great trial. And the message that we send in the midst of these storms must be clear: that our cause is just, our resolve unwavering. We will go forward with the confidence that right makes might, and with the commitment to forge an America that is safer, a world that is more secure, and a future that represents not the deepest of fears but the highest of hopes.

Thank you. God bless you. May God bless the United States of America.

of the Army's Force Generation model.

These are non-negotiables that will remain fully funded. This is our commitment; we will not depart from it. However, there will be other installation services that will clearly be reduced.

We have grown accustomed to some very high levels of service across the board in recent years and we all need to be forthcoming with the expectation that things will be different in some areas. Help manage this expectation across your garrisons. Educate everyone as to which changes they can expect to see. A simple explanation can go a long way to helping understand the changes some of our installation services will undergo.

Across the Army's installations, we can do much to help ourselves by becoming better stewards of our resources. It starts with the individual; everybody has a role. Simple things like turning the lights off, powering down your computer at night, driving tactical vehicles instead of TMP vehicles or conducting a VTC instead of traveling to a distant site unnecessarily all save money -- and no savings is too small to forego.

Commanders and leaders across the installation have a key role and are responsible for the efficient use of our resources. Costs should be an inherent consideration in your every decision. We too often marginalize this key factor in making good, resource-informed decisions but we can no longer afford to do so.

As I travel throughout the Army community, I carry the message that we can do business smarter and more efficiently without sacrificing the quality of service that our Soldiers and their Families so richly deserve.

I challenge everyone to do the same; to work together to ensure that those key installation programs that mean so much are well resourced and operated; that we do away with wasteful and unnecessary spending.

Every person -- whether you are a Soldier, Family member, one of our great DA Civilians or a contractor serving our Army -- is needed and can make a difference.

Ask yourself if you are doing the right things and then, are you doing them right. Doing things right means doing them in the most cost efficient way without sacrificing effectiveness.

Army Strong

LTG Rick Lynch  
Defender 6







## Drinking and driving don't mix

Myrna M. Llanos  
Prevention Coordinator

Driving while either intoxicated or drunk is dangerous and drivers with high blood alcohol content or concentration (BAC) are at greatly increased risk of car accidents, highway injuries and vehicular deaths. Every single injury and death caused by drunk driving is totally preventable. Although the proportion of crashes that are alcohol-related has dropped dramatically in recent decades, there are still far too many such preventable accidents. Unfortunately, in spite of great progress, alcohol-impaired driving remains a serious national problem that tragically affects many victims annually. It's easy to forget that dry statistics represent real people and real lives.

Driving anywhere, anytime, under the

influence of alcohol is dangerous to you, your family, other passengers and everyone else on the road. It

does not matter if it is down the block or across the country; it is a risk you are taking for someone else. Drinking and driving has a lasting effect. Not getting caught reinforces the bad behavior and increases long-term risk to you and others. Getting arrested has a lasting effect on your job, your budget and your integrity. Being in a crash has long-term medical, even fatal, consequences.

Drunk driving, like most other social problems, resists simple solutions. While society has done much to improve highway safety, you can do much to protect yourself. Don't drink and drive and don't ride with anyone who has too much to drink. If we do not want to be subject to the risk, not only attitudes, but behavioral norms must change. If we choose to drink when we party, we must designate a driver beforehand who agrees to stay sober. If we host a party, we must make it easy for our guests not to drink alcohol. Moreover, we must give our support to law enforcement to keep us safe from irresponsible drinkers.

No matter how many laws are passed, the real solution to this public health crisis begins with personal responsibility --- a commitment not to drive while impaired, and not to let our family members or friends drive that way. The slogan "Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk" is very true. If we are smart, we will reach an expectation that our "friends" will make provisions for their safe transportation before it gets to the point of having to take someone's keys. But if you need to, please take keys, call a taxi, or offer a guest room or sofa. We have a responsibility for each other. The person you stop from driving protects your friends, their families and people you have never met.

Since 1981, every President of the United States has demonstrated his commitment to preventing impaired driving by proclaiming December as National

Drunk and Drugged Driving (3D) Prevention Month. The month of December and the New Year's Eve holiday are also often highlighted by significant increases in state and local law enforcement efforts to combat impaired driving such as the use of sobriety checkpoints and saturation patrols.

Reducing the incidence of impaired driving requires a comprehensive approach, while recognizing that every community faces different challenges. That's why the Ft. Buchanan Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) joins in the effort to remind everyone this holiday season to always designate a sober driver before each holiday party or event involving alcohol.

This holiday season; don't ever, EVER drive if you or anyone else thinks that you may have had too much to drink.

And don't let anyone else drive intoxicated either. That includes reporting drivers who may be drunk. It's always safest not to drink and drive.

So re-

member: Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk

Editor's Note- Some of the information in this article was retrieved from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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ASAP WISHES YOU a SAFE and HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!!!



## Turkey Bowl 2009



In the spirit of camaraderie between the armed forces, Marines and Army Soldiers, played the traditional Turkey Bowl on Nov. 25. By the smiles in the photo, the Army won! Who will get the trophy next year?



## Early Birds Get the Bargains

Army & Air Force Exchange Service  
Public Affairs

Prices inside the PX will be dropping faster than the temperature outdoors this month as "early bird" shoppers will be rewarded with a flurry of discounts during two limited special events from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m.

"For just two hours on Sat., Dec. 19 and Tues., Dec. 24, the Fort Buchanan exchange will offer exclusive 'early bird' discounts," said the PX's General Manager Rick Mora. "These reduced prices will, of course, be in addition to the exceptional value Soldiers enjoy every day."

Specials during the two-hour event scheduled for the 21st will include 75 percent off all Foster Grant sunglasses, 50 percent of all Goody Hair Accessories as well as a variety of furniture discounts ranging from \$50 to \$250.

Shoppers who wait until the day before Christmas to finish marking everyone off their lists will be rewarded the morning of the 24th with offers ranging from 40 percent off Oshkosh brand children's clothing to 25 percent off all in-stock iPod accessories and Bluetooth headsets.

The PX will distribute two pages

of coupons for each "early bird" event beginning Dec. 12 and Dec. 17. Discounts reflected on the handouts provided from the 12th on will be honored from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. Sat., Dec. 19 while coupons passed after the 17th will be accepted Thurs., Dec. 24.



## How to Speak Puerto Rican

by Joseph Deliz Hernandez, Esq.

"¡Pícalo, gallo!"

Literal translation — Peck him, rooster!

Social meaning — It's the same as saying, "Don't stop because you're doing great!", "Keep it up!", "Outstanding!", "Great!", "Good job!" or "Go for it!" A person has got the bull by the horns.

Example: "¡Pícalo, gallo, estás haciéndolo bien." (You're doing great! Keep it up.)







## Accidents don't take Holidays

Alfredo Noguera  
Safety Officer

The holiday season is a time of joy and fun, gifts, and surprises. But, beware of the extra hazards the holidays bring:

- More traffic accidents
- More home fires
- More accidents with toys
- More falls
- More accidental poisonings

### Rules for Holiday Decorations

Natural evergreen trees and artificial trees are common holiday decorations. Flame proofing methods are unreliable and not recommended, since they only serve to give one a false sense of security. To ensure that trees are relatively safe, select pre-cut trees that appear fresh with firm, green needles. Cut the tree off at least 1 inch from



the original cut, and place the tree in water as soon as possible. Keep the tree in water during the entire period, checking the water level daily. Artificial trees, both plastic and metalized, can burn.

Those with built-in electric lights must carry an Underwriters Laboratory (UL) approval label. Use indirect lighting in metal trees to avoid the danger of electrical shock, because faulty electrical light sets may electrically charge the entire tree. Do not locate trees where they block exits.

Use noncombustible or fire-retardant materials. Look on the item or box for the UL label for information on non-combustibility. Make sure that electrical decorations that are hot when held by your fingers are not in contact with materials that will burn (drapes, window shades, furniture, or other decoration materials used with the electrical item).

Use low-heat-producing miniature lights that can be held in your fingers. Look for the UL label on light sets, and check the sets before using. If cords are frayed or deteriorated, or if individual light sockets are not working, do not use the light set.

Extension cords must be no smaller than 18 gauge wire (AWG 18).

Do not overload receptacles by using multiple plug-in connectors. Circuit breakers protecting most household receptacles are rated at 15 amps. Look for amperage or wattage ratings on electrical items to determine total loads.

Decorations, including electrical ones, are not to be attached to other electrical sources, light fixtures, or to fire alarm or sprinkler systems. Use string, clips, tie-wire, or thumbtacks to attach and support the weight of decorations.

### Outdoor lighting

- Use lights approved for outdoor sources. Check for a label from a testing laboratory (such as UL).
- Make sure circuits are not overloaded.
- Place cords away from traffic areas and heat sources, and not under rugs.
- Check cords and plugs for wear, frayed insulation,

cracks, and loose connections.

### Safe Toy Purchases

Toys, which are intended to bring pleasure, can also bring injury and death. The following guidelines are intended to help you select the right toy:

- Select toys to suite the age, abilities, and temperament of the child.
- Infants and toddlers should have toys that are too large to be swallowed and that have no sharp edges, hidden pins, or wires.
- Young children should have toys with no parts that can be pulled off and swallowed.
- Toys that shoot projectiles or have sharp edges should be reserved for older and more responsible children.
- Electrical toys (operated by house current) should have a label from a testing laboratory.
- Check all toys (especially imported ones) to be certain they are noncombustible and have no lead-based paint on them.
- Ensure that your older children keep their toys away from younger children.
- Make sure that children play with riding toys in areas away from stairs, traffic, or swimming pools.
- Toys should be examined regularly. Are pieces (such as wheels on toy trucks) coming loose? Are there sharp edges or rusting parts? Broken toys should be repaired immediately or discarded.

### Tips to Party By

- Always serve food along with alcohol. Foods high in protein and carbohydrates, such as cheese and meats, are especially good. They stay in the stomach longer, slowing the rate at which the body absorbs alcohol.
- If you serve alcoholic punch, use a noncarbonated base such as fruit juice. The body absorbs alcohol faster when mixed with carbonation.
- Serve nonalcoholic beverages. It is possible that some of your guests will not want to drink alcohol.
- Have several jiggers or self-measuring one-ounce bottle spouts at the bar to mix drinks. Guests are less likely to drink excessively when standard measures are used.
- Do not force drinks on your guests or rush to refill their glasses when empty. Some guests may not wish to appear rude and will accept drinks they do not want.
- Stop serving alcohol about 2 hours before the party will be over. Guests then have time for their bodies to absorb the alcohol consumed. Serve coffee or other nonalcoholic beverages as well as food.
- If you observe a guest drinking too much, try these steps:
  - Engage him or her in conversation to slow down the drinking.
  - Offer high protein food.
  - Offer to make the next drink using less alcohol. Mix it with a noncarbonated base.
  - Carefully observe his or her condition throughout the evening. Make sure the guest does not drive if you believe he or she is impaired.
  - Remember: Neither coffee nor a cold shower will help sober someone up. Only time can do that.



## Army, Marines Adjust 'Reset' for Afghan Buildup

Army Sgt. 1st Class Michael U. Carden  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – As the U.S. military answers President Barack Obama's order to reinforce efforts in Afghanistan, the Army and Marine Corps are adjusting their plans to redeploy working and serviceable equipment, top military officers told Congress today. Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli, Army vice chief of staff, and Gen. James F. Amos, assistant commandant of the Marine Corps, testified on their services' "reset" requirements before subcommittees of the House Armed Services Committee.

The proceedings were a continuation of a July hearing that was interrupted because of a prolonged series of House votes. The initial hearing focused on Iraq draw-down plans and attempted to outline the method in which the services determined what equipment would redeploy and what would be left for Iraqi security forces.

However, much has changed in the past five months. On Dec. 1, Obama ordered a surge of 30,000 additional U.S. troops to Afghanistan, so some of the equipment in Iraq that was scheduled to return to the United States has been re-directed to outfit units headed to Afghanistan.

Roughly 22,000 soldiers are part of the plus-up in Afghanistan, "and quite a bit of the equipment coming out of Iraq [will] be used to support those soldiers," Chiarelli said.

"That will mean as we begin the Iraq drawdown in earnest, that there will be less equipment coming back to the states for reset," the general said.

Amos described the Marine Corps adjustment since July, noting 15,000 Marines were on the ground in Iraq then. Only about one-third of those Marines remain, and about 97 percent of their combat equipment was returned home or is being refurbished in Kuwait, Amos said.

When Marine Corps leaders heard of the possibility of an Afghan buildup, a "big chunk" of their equipment in Kuwait was made ready for Afghanistan, he added.

"When we first heard an inkling of a plus-up in Afghanistan, we took the equipment that we knew was refurbishable and in good condition and set it aside in anticipation of the president's directive," Amos explained.

The Marine Corps buildup is roughly 9,000 Marines, and is the service's No. 1 priority, he said. Amos added that those Marines will be equipped either in Kuwait or at their home stations.

"Our greatest focus right now is getting equipment to our forces in Afghanistan," he continued. "We will have 100 percent of every piece of equipment they need, with all the capabilities."

Another change Amos noted since the July hearing was the Marine Corps' reset bill. When he last testified, he estimated that the Marine Corps would need about \$20 billion to completely replace war-torn and unusable equipment. The estimate has increased an additional \$15 billion to accommodate the Afghanistan mission and lessons learned in the past five months, he said.

Chiarelli didn't have an opportunity to elaborate on the Army's reset costs, but considering the Army is a much larger force, the costs are likely higher. He did note that the Army is set to establish Red River Army Depot in Texas as its maintenance hub for mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicles, better known as MRAPs. The initiative is now a pilot program, but should be fully up and running in fiscal 2011, he said.

The Army has integrated about 37,000 MRAP vehicles into its force, because of the added protection its V-shaped hull provides troops.

"I think we're embracing the MRAP, and doing everything we can to ensure when those vehicles start flowing back out of theater, we're ready to accept them, sustain them and reset them," Chiarelli said.

See Army, Marines Adjust 'Reset'

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## WWII Navy veteran receives awards after 60 years

El Morro Staff  
Photos by Petty Officer Gilmore Consuelo

In an intimate ceremony held 6 December at Ramos Hall, World War II veteran, Signalman Third Class Fernando (Fred) Luis Zayas received nine medals due more than 60 years. The initiative to recognize this brave sailor was from the Office of the Resident Commissioner, Honorable Pedro Pierluisi, who spoke highly of the courage of the Puerto Rican men and women who serve in the armed forces.

Zayas received the Good Conduct Medal, World War II Victory Medal, American Campaign Medal, Asian Pacific Campaign Medal with Bronze Star, European-African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Navy Marksman Rifle Medal, The Honorable Service Lapel Pin and The Discharge Button.

Born in Puerto Rico June 12, 1924 Zayas was brought to New York by his mother when he was 2 years old. He grew up in Washington Heights, Manhattan, New York City and enlisted in the Navy on December 8, 1941 at age 17, day after Pearl Harbor. He took his basic training at Great Lake Naval Station in Illinois. As a Visual Communication trainee and a Signalman at the University of



Signalman Third Class (Retired)  
Fernando Luis Zayas

Chicago, he became known as "Flags." Later he was shipped to the U.S. Naval Armed Guard Center in Brooklyn, New York. He volunteered for the Navy Armed Guard unit to protect merchant ships, victory ships, and liberty ships serving from early 1942 to the end of 1945. He participated in the invasion at Omaha Beach December 7, 1944 and was involved in missions in the Atlantic, African, and Pacific theatres of



P.R. Resident Commissioner, Hon. Pedro Pierluisi presented the awards to Signalman Third Class Zayas.

war. Signalman Zayas survived the Battles of Bari, Naples, and Okinawa.

Specific duty assignments included:

- SS AMERICAN FISHER November 1942 and SS ORBIS until April of 1942. - SS JOSEPH MADILL June-December 1943. The ship made port at Oran and Algiers in North Africa taking troops to Augustus and other ports in Sicily. The ship was in-Naples, of - SS April-ship sion of - SS (Am-1945. in the suffered down The of during "Some ships Guards April Guards Victory April batteries was April 12 and another on April 15. Bombs landed about 300 yards away on the latter date, and the ship was strafed."



His wife, Marilyn Zayas, listened in quiet admiration to all the speeches that highlighted her husband's career in the Navy.

arrived at Okinawa on 11. One of these, the Minot Victory, five Armed were wounded. Between April 11 and 20 the United claimed the destruction ... This action took place on 15. ... The Dashing Wave was under fire from shore on April 14 but escaped damage. The Saginaw Victory credited with the destruction of one enemy plane on April 12 and another on April 15. Bombs landed about 300 yards away on the latter date, and the ship was strafed."



Commander Melanie Kreckovsky, Navy Operational Support Center-Puerto Rico was the hostess for the event held at Ramos Hall.

When Signalman Zayas returned to San Francisco, his ship collided with the SS CUBA VICTORY and was sent to Ulithi (Atoll in the Pacific) for repair. Signalman Zayas was discharged from the Navy in 1945. He lived and worked in New Jersey in the electronics industry for 40 years. He is married to Marilyn Zayas and had two children, William and Susan. He retired in 1985 and returned to Puerto Rico in 1990. Fred (as he has always been known) has 11 grandchildren (all families combined) and four (almost five) great-grandchildren. His hobbies are going to the beach and working with his collection of old films and Frank Sinatra memorabilia.



Zayas son, William and his wife, and Mrs. Marilyn Zayas thanked the Office of the Resident Commissioner, the Navy Operational Support Center-Puerto Rico, the USAG Fort Buchanan and the 1st MSC for making this ceremony possible.

## Obama Promises Conditions-based Afghanistan Transition

Gerry J. Gilmore  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Any changes in U.S. troop strength in Afghanistan when security responsibility starts to transfer to the Afghans in July 2011 will be considered in light of the situation on the ground at that time, President Barack Obama said in Oslo, Norway.

With Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg by his side, Obama, who was in Norway to receive the Nobel Peace Prize, told reporters that it's very important to understand that we are not going to see some sharp cliff, some precipitous drawdown of U.S. forces from Afghanistan in July 2011.

Obama has directed the deployment of 30,000 extra U.S. troops to Afghanistan over the next several months to combat and neutralize Taliban insurgents who threaten to destabilize the Afghan government. Some of those troops will be employed in training additional Afghan soldiers and police.

Deployments will flow into the summer and will boost the total U.S. military strength in Afghanistan to about 100,000 troops.

The troop deployments will occur in conjunction with a surge of civilian experts in agriculture, infrastructure and governance. The operation is designed to provide time for Afghan authorities to bolster their security forces and improve the quality of government so they can assume security duties and gain added public support.

We believe we've got the right strat-

egy, [and] we believe we can execute the strategy, Obama said. The plan is to build Afghan capacity, protect population centers, and blunt and degrade the Taliban capacity, he said, and to begin transferring responsibility to the Afghan people and Afghan security forces in July 2011.

An evaluation of the results of the Afghanistan surge will be conducted around this time next year. Meanwhile, Obama said, U.S. forces will continue to train and partner with the growing Afghan security forces, and conditions in Afghanistan will determine how the transition will proceed.

The pace at which that takes place, the slope of a drawdown, how it occurs tactically, those are all going to be conditions-based, the president said.

And the Afghan government will still require support for its security forces, Obama said, years after U.S. and NATO troop strength is substantially reduced in the region.

We are still going to have an interest in partnering with Afghans and Pakistanis and others in dealing with the remnants of terrorist activity there, Obama said.

Obama praised fellow NATO member Norway as a close friend and ally of the United States. Norway has deployed nearly 600 troops to Afghanistan.

Norway is committed to continuing our military and civilian efforts in Afghanistan, Obama said, noting Norway has increased its financial contribution to the Afghan national army and police to a total of 110 million U.S. dollars for the period 2010 to 2014.

We must enable Afghans to take responsibility for their own security, Obama said.

## CSM Safety Tips

**No Headphones** — No headphones or earphones (that means iPods or Walkmen, etc.) while walking or jogging on or alongside roadways. This is not an option. You will be cited by law enforcement. Ear pieces and headphones can only be worn inside the Fitness Center.

**Run or walk approaching traffic** — All runners/walkers are required to run or walk facing oncoming traffic (left side of the road). The runner/walker's back should never be to the traffic.

This allows the runner/walker to maintain eye-to-eye contact with the vehicle operator and gives the runner/walker a chance to react should the vehicle come too close. Vehicle operators should not have to guess what a runner/walker is going to do. This rule ensures the safety of both the vehicle operator and the runner/walker.

**Reflective Belts** — When conducting physical training outdoors, each person must wear a reflective belt or vest at all times, regardless of the time of day. Reflective belts must be visible and worn around the waist.

**Safety is everyone's business**





## Fort Buchanan honors Veterans at Remembrance Ceremony

Chaplain (LTC) Kenneth Lawson  
Garrison Chaplain

Photos by Marc McCormick

"Freedom is never free ... there is always a price that has to be paid," this is how Chaplain (Col) Kenneth L. Beade, Command Chaplain, U.S. Army Reserve Command during his speech at the Fort Buchanan Veterans Day Celebration on 10 November.

He went on to describe who is a veteran and simply answered the question with, "he or she are fellow citizens." He is the cop on the beat who spent six months in the Middle East sweating two gallons a day, making sure the armored personnel carriers didn't run out of fuel or the POW who went away one person and came back another – or didn't come back at all. She is the nurse who fought against futility and went to sleep sobbing every night for two solid years in Da Nang. They are also the drill instructors that have never seen combat – but have saved countless lives by turning slouchy, no-account gang members into Soldiers, and teaching them to watch each other's back.

He is the parade-riding Legionnaire who pins on his ribbons and medals with a prosthetic hand or the little old lady in tennis shoe who takes her time processing your application. Above all, he or she is a Soldier and a savior and a sword against darkness, and is nothing less than the finest, greatest testimony on behalf of the finest, greatest Nation ever known.

But again, freedom is never free. It always costs someone something. Freedom is something that is valuable. It is so valuable that men and women have been willing to give their lives in exchange for their freedom ... the freedom of their families and that of their countrymen. Such freedoms as that of religion, of the press, and of speech ... just to name a few.

Today, many are giving their lives for the freedom from terror and paying the ultimate sacrifice. We need to remember their sacrifice; and we need to rededicate ourselves to remembering those who pay the price so that freedom might be enjoyed for generations to come.



USAG Fort Buchanan Commander, Col. Edwin C. Domingo presents a plaque to the guest speaker for the event, Chaplain (COL) Kenneth L. Beale, Jr. while Chaplain (LTC) Ken Lawson, Garrison Chaplain observes.



Col. Domingo greets veterans and family members who attended the Remembrance Ceremony.

"Gracias a todos por acompañarnos en la mañana de hoy para honrar a nuestros veteranos, a nuestros héroes," Colonel Domingo expressed.

"I feel humble when I am in the presence of you, the brave men and women who proudly wore this uniform. Times have changed and so the world we live in. Some time ago, men and women like you took the oath to serve our country, to defend its Constitution, to preserve our democratic way of life, to make a change.

"Thanks to you and all your sacrifices leaving behind family, friends and home, our lives also changed. You entered the United States Army determined to do something for your country. It was with the same determination and courage that you went into the world to defend democracy and peace in the two World Wars, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm...and now Iraq and Afghanistan. It was General Douglas MacArthur who said "The soldier, above all people, prays for peace, for he must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war."

"Tomorrow will be a day of celebration. More than 90 years have passed since in 1918, on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month the armistice was signed, ending the fight in World War I, the war to end all wars. As history is our witness, peace did not last but the date was recognized throughout the western world.

"What originally was marked as Armistice Day changed to Veterans Day to allow all Soldiers from all wars to be honored. Tomorrow will be a day marked with parades, ceremonies and speeches to pay tribute to those who served our country. Today, at Fort Buchanan we take time from our hectic lives to get together and reflect upon the heroic deeds of our veterans.

"We humbly say "Thank You" for proudly responding to the nation's call to duty, for giving everything for peace with valor and distinction. Thank you for all your sacrifices. Some even paid the ultimate sacrifice so our families could live in freedom and our children would grow strong and safe. On this day and every day, with gratefulness we thank you, Veterans, for all you gave and give.

"Dios bendiga a nuestros veteranos, a sus familias a nuestra comunidad del Fuerte Buchanan, a nuestros Soldados y a nuestra nación. Muchas gracias."

## P.R. Senate honors Veterans

El Morro Staff

Photos by Marc McCormick

The Labor, Veterans' Affairs and Human Resources Commission of the Puerto Rico Senate, in conjunction with the Office of the Advocate for Veterans' Affairs, held on Nov. 7 the First Veteran's Congress at the Capitol.

The First Veteran's Congress was celebrated in virtue of Senate's Resolution 188, presented by the President of the Senate, Hon. Thomas Rivera Schatz and Senator Lucy Arce Ferrer.

The resolution ordered the Commission to coordinate and celebrate the activity during the month of November, identified as the "Month to Honor the Veteran."

Some of the topics discussed at the event were the veteran's rights and benefits. "Veterans have been a living example of the commitment and compromise towards liberty in all the conflicts in which the United States of America have participated throughout history. We understand that is highly meritorious to continue working to expand the offering of existing help to them and their family members in gratitude for their commendable labor," expressed Senator Lucy Arce Ferrer.



Senator Lucy Arce Ferrer



USAG Fort Buchanan commanding officer, Col. Edwin C. Domingo talks with PR National Guard Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Antonio J. Vicens during the First Veteran's Congress.



Lt. Gen. Freakly, and Col. Domingo stand in attention during the presentation of the colors by the PRNG Color Guard.



Col. and Mrs. Domingo greet LTG Benjamin C. Freakly, Commanding General, U.S. Army Accessions Command at the First Veteran's Congress.



Col. Domingo thanked Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Francisco Alicea, President, 65th Infantry Regiment for their contributions to our democracy.





# Fort Buchanan's "Holiday on Ice" 2009

Grissel Rosa  
USAG Public Affairs Officer

The USAG Fort Buchanan commanding officer, Colonel Edwin C. Domingo addressed the audience on the meaning of the holiday season.

"Muy buenas noches a todos. Bienvenidos a esta su casa para celebrar el encendido de la Navidad del Fuerte Buchanan.

Welcome all on this wonderful occasion as we mark the beginning of the holiday season at Fort Buchanan. It's so great to be here with my family – Rebecca and my children, as well as the members of the Fort Buchanan family and friends.

Christmas time is my favorite season. During this special time, we share the wonders of faith, the spirit of goodwill and hope. This Holiday deserves a special place in our hearts since it holds a special meaning to the Fort Buchanan family. The events in the last couple months, specially the CAPECO explosion, allow us to look at this time with a different perspective, a new meaning.

During these critical times we rediscovered some of the great values we all share, such as teamwork, respect and caring. At a certain point these values came together blending into one another to express the positive inner side of many of us through selflessness, self-giving and gratitude. We saw Soldiers, co-workers, members of federal agencies and of our surrounding community, working together, hand in hand, to bring back Fort Buchanan to where it was before; enabling our families, Soldiers and workforce to come back home safe.

As your Installation Commander I am humbled to receive the greatest gift ever – going through an emergency of this magnitude without a casualty. Yes, I believe in the spirit of the Holidays as I count my blessings every day - my Fort Buchanan family and community.

Tonight it's time for our Christmas celebration and, it has to be said, you are the very essence of the Christmas spirit of giving.

Thank you for the many gifts received in the form of your support and for having our Soldiers and their families first in your hearts.

Now though it is time to rest, relax and have fun. It is your time to be merry. Together let's join as we countdown to light our Christmas tree that represents all the good wishes of the season you make possible and the night you make magical. ¡Muchas felicidades a todos!"



The parade started with the participation of the 1st Mission Support Command Color Guard.



The Coast Guard Auxiliary Corps also marched in the Holiday parade bringing their colors.



Col. Domingo shares some holiday anecdotes with P.R. State Guard Commanding General, BG Hector Sorrentini and Mrs. Blanquita Benitez from the Municipality of San Juan.



Santa Claus came directly from the Municipality of San Juan to bring toys and candy to the children.



The ice skating rink was one of the activities for the children, in addition to inflatables, bumper cars, rock climbing, mechanical bull, sumo wrestling, food, music and a lot of fun.

Photos by Rosie Irizarry  
Multimedia Visual Information  
Section - DPTMS



Above - Students from Antilles Elementary School brought a "trulla" with "bomba y plena."

Right - While children from the Child and Youth Services program marched dressed as penguins and little snowmen and snowflakes.





## a celebration for kids and kids at heart



Boys and girls from Fort Buchanan school age programs marched dressed as snowflakes.



MSgt. William Russell is having a ball with the kids who came to see the parade and enjoy all the activities.

Photos by Rosie  
Irizarry  
Multimedia Visual  
Information Section  
- DPTMS



Santa and Mrs. Claus, the Three Wise Men and one of Santa's elves, pose for the camera during Fort Buchanan Holiday on Ice. They are all employees of Fort Buchanan's Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation.



Antilles High School JROTC (Top) were the winners of the parade.



Members of the Navy Sea Cadets participated at the parade marching with their colors.

(Right) Mrs. Sonia Betancourt directed the Antilles High School Choir presenting a medley of Holiday songs.



Col. Domingo and MSgt. Russell presented the awards for the parade winners. They are: (Top) First place, Antilles High School JROTC. Second place (Center) Dr. Irma Julia receives the certificate on behalf of Child & Youth Services. (Right) Col. Domingo presents a special award for the Antilles High School Choir.







# Governor Fortuño presents awards to Fort Buchanan first responders

El Morro staff  
Photos by Marc McCormick

Members of the Fort Buchanan Fire Department were presented special awards during the ceremony “Nuestros Héroes - Corazones Poderosos” held November 8 at Roberto Clemente Coliseum. During the event the Governor of Puerto Rico, Hon. Luis Fortuño highlighted the courage and selfless service of our first responders as well as the Puerto Rico Firefighters and Police, members of the Puerto Rico National Guard and civilian personnel during the CAPECO explosion on Oct. 23, 2009.



Left - Axel Miranda-Chief Fire Inspector, Luis Rojas-Lead Firefighter and Juan E. Morales-Fire Inspector wait to receive their award. Top - USAG Fort Buchanan commanding officer, Col. Edwin C. Domingo is greeted by Puerto Rico Secretary of State, Hon. Kenneth McClintock who served as Master of Ceremonies for the event.



L to R - Luis Rojas-Lead Firefighter, Juan E. Morales-Fire Inspector, Edgardo Rodriguez-Firefighter, Wayne Doherty-Chief Fire Department, Joel Pérez-Firefighter, Col. Edwin C. Domingo, Fort Buchanan commanding officer and Axel Miranda-Chief Fire Inspector share a moment at the award ceremony “Nuestros Héroes-Corazones Poderosos” held Nov. 8 at Roberto Clemente Coliseum.



# Boy Scouts help Chapel Annex



Members of Boy Scout Troop 95 from Fort Buchanan helped painting and cleaning the Fort Buchanan Chapel Annex on November.

Left- Col. Virginia Yates, Commander, Rodriguez Army Health Clinic and Chaplain (LTC) Kenneth Lawson, Garrison Chaplain also supported the Boy Scouts in their initiative.



Boy Scouts help the community through beautification initiatives. They not only earn their badges but most important support the community.



Chaplain Lawson was thankful for the Boy Scout Troop 95 lending a hand to the community that uses the facilities of the Chapel Annex.





## AFROTC Cadets receive flight orientation by USAF Auxiliary at Isla Grande

Twelve cadets from AFROTC Detachment 755 - University of Puerto Rico Rio Piedras campus, flew orientation flights on a Cessna 182 through clear sunny skies Sunday morning, 22 Nov 09. The Puerto Rico Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Wing realized the AFROTC Flight Orientation Program for this neighboring detachment.

The AFROTC Flight Orientation Program provided a complete and well-rounded education in all aspects of the United States Air Force to our cadets. This was accomplished with the hands-on-experience on flight operations conducted by CAP pilots serving in their role as the USAF Auxiliary. The objective of orientation flights conducted by the Air Force to reward and motivate individuals, as well as provide a better understanding of aviation-related responsibilities with Air Force aircraft and mission, was successfully achieved this day.

C4C Pamela Blanco and C4C Jennifer Flores, both Det 755 and CAP cadets, organized the flights, completed the required flight documentation, and provided pre-flight briefings to the cadets.

Each flight consisted of three cadets and a pilot, CAP 1Lt Rafael Fernandez and lasting approximately one hour each. After taking off from Isla Grande Airport in San Juan, the flights headed west along the northern coast of Puerto Rico to Arecibo, where the cadets flew an approach into the Arecibo Airport and then overflew the Arecibo Radio Observatory before returning to Isla Grande.

"It was awesome!" exclaimed, C4C Daniel Sierra after his orientation flight. His fellow flight mates, C4C Lisa Cintron and C4C Juan Vidal, expressed agreement with their first hands-on flying experience as one to always remember.



(L to R) 1Lt Rafael Fernandez briefs C4C Juan Vidal, C4C Lisa Cintron and C4C Daniel Sierra prior to their orientation flight.



(R to L) 1Lt Rafael Fernandez briefs C4C Juan Vidal, C4C Lisa Cintron and C4C Daniel Sierra prior to their orientation flight.



C4C Jennifer Flores briefs her fellow cadets on the route for their orientation flight.



C4C Jennifer Flores briefs her fellow cadets on the route for their orientation flight.



Cessna 182 taxiing at Isla Grande Airport.



Cessna 182 departs Isla Grande Airport with AFROTC cadets on an orientation flight.

## McChrystal: Guard brings unique skills to Afghanistan

Lt. Col. Ellen Krenke  
National Guard Bureau PAO  
Gerry Gilmore  
American Forces Press Service

ARLINGTON, Va. -- Gen. Stanley A. McChrystal told Congress Tuesday that the National Guard's contribution in Afghanistan has been "extraordinary."

"Sometimes someone will ... say, 'Well, they're just as good as active-duty or active Army troops ....' That's not the case," the commander of U.S. and international forces in Afghanistan said in a hearing before the House Armed Services Committee.

"In many cases, they bring unique skills, like our agricultural development teams that are around the country; bring ... skills and maturity active components don't have."

In response to a question from Rep. Ike Skelton of Missouri, McChrystal said despite their differences, the Guard, Reserve and active components are working together as a team.

"They're not exactly the same, but together they are much better," he said.

McChrystal also said the Guard is making many sacrifices in lives lost and time away from families and employers.

"I cannot say enough about their performance," he said.

Earlier in the day, McChrystal told Senate lawmakers that the training of tens of thousands of additional, capable Afghan soldiers and police is another crucial task necessary to achieving success in Afghanistan.

"To pursue our core goal of defeating al-Qaida and preventing their return to Afghanistan, we must disrupt and degrade the Taliban's capacity, deny their access to the Afghan population and strengthen the Afghan security forces," he said.

This strategy, he said, requires reversing the current momentum of the Taliban, while creating "the time and space to develop Afghan security and governance capacity."

Many of the 30,000 U.S. forces deploying to Afghanistan in coming months will be employed to combat the Taliban, McChrystal said, while others will assist NATO troops in training up new Afghan soldiers and police.

There are now between 180,000 to 190,000 Afghan security forces, McChrystal said, divided between military forces and the police. "We need to significantly increase the Afghan national security forces," he said.

Afghan army trainers, such as those from the 48th Brigade Combat Team of the Georgia National Guard, are working hard to close the gap.

Sixteen new Afghan National Army companies, McChrystal said, are slated to deploy to Helmand province in early winter. More Afghan troops are planned to follow in the spring. "We are flowing everything we can build in the Afghan army into that area," he said.

By the fall of 2010, McChrystal said, there should be about 134,000 Afghan soldiers and just over 100,000 Afghan police. And by July 2011, he said, there should be about 300,000 Afghan security forces divided between soldiers and police.





## Language Interpretation Services

El Morro Staff

To allow our consultants to communicate with military family members who do not speak the English language, Military OneSource provides simultaneous language interpretation services. This interpretation service, which is provided by telephone, ensures that language will not be a barrier to family members seeking and receiving Military OneSource services. We make every effort to honor all language preferences. The language interpretation services are available to our consultants 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

### Who is eligible?

Military OneSource interpretation services are intended to facilitate the providing of Military OneSource services to individual military family members who do not speak the English language. For example, a non-English-speaking military spouse may use the interpretation service to talk with a Military OneSource consultant about how to find child care programs in her community, or to discuss the concerns she may have about a spouse who has returned from combat.

To qualify, these family members must be family members of service members who are eligible to use the Military OneSource program. These service members include:

- Active-duty service members in the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Air Force and their immediate family members.

- National Guard and Reserve members -- regardless of activation status -- and their immediate family members (includes members of the Individual Ready Reserve).

- Separating service members and their immediate family members for up to six months following their separation.

### Who is not eligible?

Our language interpretation service is not a stand-alone service. It is used only in connection with providing usual Military OneSource services in the context of a Military OneSource case.

Situations for which the language interpretation service may not be used include:

- Situations outside the context of a Military OneSource case. Requests to use the interpretation service for reasons outside the context of a Military OneSource case, or by third-party advocates for reasons outside a Military OneSource case, are outside the scope of this service. For example, a Family Readiness Group leader may not use the interpretation service to contact a non-English speaking spouse.

- Medical. The interpretation services may not be used for discussion or delivery of information related to medical issues.

### What if a situation doesn't qualify for the interpretation services?

Situations that do not meet the eligibility requirements may be considered for interpretation support if there are other available free resources.

Military OneSource will explore community and government resources to assist you. Your Military OneSource consultant will explain how we can help with your request when the situation does not

qualify for Military OneSource interpretation services.

If a military family member or military family support staff needs interpretation services that are outside the scope of this service, consultants will offer alternate resources that can assist them with their need.

### Other resources - Your military support services

Each service branch sponsors information and support programs for service members and their families. You can call or visit any installation Army Community Service Center, Marine Corps Community Services, Fleet and Family Support Center, or Airman and Family Readiness Center regardless of your branch affiliation.

If you aren't near an installation, National Guard Family Assistance Centers are available in every state. The Local Community Resource Finder on the National Guard Family Program at [www.guardfamily.org](http://www.guardfamily.org) will identify your closest center.

### Military OneSource

This free 24-hour service is available to all active duty, Guard, and Reserve members (regardless of activation status) and their families. Consultants provide information and make referrals on a wide range of issues. Free face-to-face counseling sessions (and their equivalent by phone or online) are also available. Call 1-800-342-9647 or go to [www.MilitaryOneSource.com](http://www.MilitaryOneSource.com) to learn more.

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## Document Translation Services

El Morro Staff

Through its document translation services, Military OneSource provides for the translation of legal documents such as leases, marriage licenses, adoption paperwork, and school transcripts ("qualifying documents") for service members and their families. Upon the user's request, translations will be certified, notarized as necessary, and accompanied by a certificate of authenticity.

The information below will help you understand more about the program and how it works.

### Who is eligible?

Anyone who is eligible to use the Military OneSource program is eligible to use Military OneSource translation services. However, they may use the services only for qualifying documents that relate to their own, individual situations.

Those eligible for Military OneSource services include:

- Active-duty service members in the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Air Force and their immediate family members.
- National Guard and Reserve members -- regardless of activation status -- and their immediate family members (includes members of the Individual Ready Reserve).
- Separating service members and their immediate family members for up to six months following their separation.
- DoD Civilians on the staff of installation support services/offering support services to service members and their family (Airman and Family Readiness Centers, Army Community Service, Family Assistance Centers, etc.) when translation of documents if for their own, individual situation (as described above). Civilian service eligibility does not include face-to-face consultation, or telephonic or online Short-Term Solution-Focused consultation.

### What documents may be translated?

Qualifying documents - Only certain kinds of documents may be translated by our document translation services. We refer to these as "qualifying documents."

Qualifying documents are legal documents such as: leases, marriage licenses, adoption paperwork that is required by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), birth certificates, school transcripts

### What documents may not be translated?

Nonqualifying documents - Only the kinds of documents described above qualify for translation through our document translation services.

Documents that do not qualify for our translation services include:

- Medical. Our document translation services may not be used for discussion or delivery of information related to medical issues. Birth certificates, however, qualify for our translation services.

- Other. Requests to use the document translation service that are not for an individual service member or family member and are not for qualifying documents are outside the scope of Military OneSource document translation services. For example, flyers advertising installation Events or family support program brochures may not be translated.

### How long will it take to translate my document?

If you follow the process below by sending your document via the preferred method (e-mail), and if your document is less than 5,000 words and a qualifying document such as birth certificate or marriage license, you will receive your translation back within a few business days.

Documents that are nonstandard in nature, or are not in good condition, or are longer than 5,000 words generally require more time. There is a 20-page limit per qualifying document.

### How do I get started?

Call a Military OneSource consultant at 1-800-342-9647. (From outside the U.S. and Canada, call 1-800-342-9647 or call collect 484-530-5908.) Be sure to have the document that you want to have translated with you when you make this call.

Your consultant will then do the following:

- Explain how to connect with and send documents to Federal News Service, Inc. (FNS) for translation of official documents.
- Ask you several questions about your document and complete a Request for Translation Services Form.
- Open a case for you and give you the case number.
- Send a copy of the completed Request for Translation Services Form to you. (You will attach this form when you Fax, e-mail, or mail your qualifying documents or documents to Federal News Service, Inc. The consultant will also send a copy of the form to Federal News Service by e-mail to authorize your use of the service.)

Keep in mind that case numbers can be used only once. If you need translation services in the future for a different qualifying document, please call again for a new case number and form.

See Document Translation Services

Page 15





## Document Translation Services

What if my document isn't a "qualifying" document?

Documents that do not meet the above eligibility criteria may be considered for translation support if there are other available free resources. Military OneSource will explore community and government resources to assist you. Many times manufacturers, educational services, and community agencies provide educational materials in numerous languages. Your Military OneSource consultant will explain how we can help with your request when the document is not a qualifying document.

### Other resources - Your military support services

Each service branch sponsors information and support programs for service members and their families. You can call or visit any installation Army Community Service Center, Marine Corps Community Services, Fleet and Family Support Center, or Airman and Family Readiness Center regardless of your branch affiliation.

If you aren't near an installation, National Guard Family Assistance Centers are available in every state. The Local Community Resource Finder on the National Guard Family Program at [www.guardfamily.org](http://www.guardfamily.org) will identify your closest center.

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Staff Sgt. Rafael Gutierrez, a military police non-commissioned officer for the 143rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command, secures a tent, May 29. Soldiers of the 143rd ESC assembled the tent to function as a work facility. As the first ESC to arrive in Afghanistan, many of the command's Soldiers had to build their own work areas.

## Army, Marines Adjust 'Reset'

The Marine Corps also has determined that the MRAP is going to be part of its total ground tactical vehicle strategy after success in Iraq and Afghanistan, Amos said. He anticipates more than 2,300 MRAP vehicles to soon become part of the regular Marine inventory.

In July, both generals expressed concern over the degrading readiness of their forces after nearly eight years of high tempo counterinsurgency operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. The generals conceded that the ground forces must maintain capabilities to respond to future contingencies around the world.

Amos said the current security environments in Iraq and Afghanistan justify the readiness tradeoff, but the military must remain balanced and have the support of the American people and Congress to seek modernization.

## Army Reserve Command Moves All U.S. Troops, Supplies Into Afghanistan

By Pfc. Elisebet Freeburg

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – In February, President Barack Obama authorized almost 20,000 additional troops to deploy to Afghanistan as part of the Global War on Terrorism. Each week, the 143rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command moves thousands of troops into theater in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The 143rd ESC, an Army Reserve command and the first ESC to deploy to Afghanistan, controls the arrival and movement of troops and supplies by leading the Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan in sustainment operations.

"If we were a Fortune 500 company, the 143rd would be the CEOs," said 1st Lt. LaMeka Grayson, a human resources operations officer.

Since sustainment previously was operated on a battalion level, the 143rd ESC pioneered sustainment operations on a command level.

The approximately 300 Soldiers of the 143rd ESC are divided into many sections. The heart of the command is the section called support operations.

"Support operations (SPO) is the major information hub for the unit," said Master Sgt. Michelle J. Jackson-Hanner, the distribution integration branch non-commissioned officer in charge. "There are eight cells in SPO, and each one has a different function."

The eight SPO cells are the distribution integration branch, human resource operations, mobility, contracting, plans, supply and services, ammunitions and the material readiness branch.

The distribution integration branch is the internal information center through which all the SPO cells funnel their information. The DIB collects the information and then passes it on to the party for which it is intended.

Human resource operations handles personnel travel, such as emergency leave, and rest and recuperation leave. HR Ops is also responsible for all the mail coming into Afghanistan for U.S. troops, according to Grayson. For Kandahar Airfield alone, the cell tracks mail for nearly 10,000 people.

The mobility cell tracks basic commodities that a unit would need while on the ground, said Jackson-Hanner. They cover everything from tent poles and building materials to tactical vehicles. With the number of units in Afghanistan increasing weekly, mobility provides those units with Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles. The need is evident at Forward Operating Base Ramrod where thousands of Marines have arrived and need a vast number of MRAPs to become functional.

"[The contracting cell is] responsible for making sure the contractors we use are up to par on licenses, up to date on equipment and delivering what they are supposed to," said Jackson-Hanner.

The contracting cell tracks local contractors hired by the U.S. military to move convoys of supplies.

Plans is the preparation cell. All plans are submitted through this cell, checked for accurate information and then sent to the 143rd ESC commanding general, Brig. Gen. Daniel I. Schultz, for final approval. As well, they review and make changes to current policies and procedures.

"[Supply and services] establishes all fuel locations and basically fuel distribution throughout [Afghanistan]," said Lt. Col. Richard R. Biehl, the supply and services branch chief.

Besides fuel, the cell brings in and provides rations for troops, such as bottled water and food. In addition, they conduct mortuary affairs, which involves identification of

deceased personnel and safeguarding personal effects, and they facilitate the Army Direct Ordering program, which allows Soldiers to replace worn-out uniforms. Challenges they have faced include enemy attacks on convoys and the overall demand of expanding FOBs needing more supplies.

"Ammunitions is a vital part of supporting the troops coming in," said Sgt. Raymond S. Lopez Jr., a 143rd ESC ammunitions specialist. "Without bullets you can't kill the bad guy."

The ammunitions cell controls the flow of ammunition throughout the theater and analyzes what each unit needs, said Lopez. One difficulty the cell faced was filling the growing ammo needs of new troops arriving. The problem was solved by dedicating a regular flight into country solely to bring in ammo.

The material readiness branch is responsible for receiving materials to distribute, such as electrical equipment, drilling equipment for wells and large containers of water to be used for bathing.

One challenge the SPO faces as a whole is the constant adaptation to a changing theater as the troop influx grows. Besides SPO, another section essential to the 143rd ESC's operations is the logistics section. It currently oversees building projects in the southern region of Afghanistan. They approve large purchases, oversee vehicle usage and manage service requests. Besides this, the logistics section supervises the base dining facilities to ensure that food service abides by regulations.

The 143rd ESC supports the U.S. mission in Afghanistan by helping the local populace. It is currently building a humanitarian

yard outside Kandahar Airfield that will cover the entire southern and western Afghanistan regions.

"The yard will hold 150 containers of aid like rice, beans, clothing, sugar and salt," said Master Sgt. Johnny Wise Jr., the Civil Affairs humanitarian assistance NCOIC.

The 143rd ESC will employ 20 local Afghans to work as distributors at the yard. The workers will be chosen after a rigorous six week process, including interviews and follow-ups. Eventually Civil Affairs will control the humanitarian yard at Bagram Airfield too, thereby rendering humanitarian aid to the entire country.

The SPO, logistics and Civil Affairs are by no means the only sections of the command who contribute to the build-up of troops in Afghanistan. Many sections assist in sustainment operations or support those sections that do.

"We have a lot of eyes on us to ensure that we were right for the job," said Jackson-Hanner. "I think we've proven that we're able to maintain our logistical sustainment."

The 135th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, a National Guard command out of Homewood, Ala., will replace the 143rd ESC at the end of 2009.

"We're setting the next unit up for success," said Lopez. "We came here with nothing built up and built this ourselves. The next unit will just jump into our seats, and we'll roll out of here."

For troops in the Afghanistan theater, the support operations of a sustainment command will remain a crucial asset to maintain U.S. and coalition forces in the Global War on Terror.



Sgt. Raymond S. Lopez Jr., a 143rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command ammunitions specialist, plays a critical role in the U.S. troop expansion in Afghanistan. As part of the ammo cell, Lopez helps supply ammunition to all U.S. units in the Afghan theater. (Photo Credit US Army Reserve.)







Ignacio González Ruiz  
USAG CFC Lead Coordinator

Last two weeks were irregular for most of the USAG Federal employees. We know that for those less fortunate their whole life is irregular. That's why we stepped forward and, Now More Than Ever, jump started the CFC Campaign again.

The CFC is supported through a voluntary program that is employee-focus, cost-efficient and effective in providing all Federal employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life for all through payroll deduction or one time donation.

#### What is the Payroll Deduction Option?

Payroll deduction option makes it convenient for you to give by letting you spread your contribution across the entire year. Last year, more than 90% of all CFC funds raised were made through payroll deduction. Payments on payroll deduction pledges begin on the first pay period beginning January and conclude with the last pay period beginning in December. There is no simpler way for you to make good things happen for so many people than to contribute using payroll deduction. Payroll deduction helps you care for your community and your word.

The CFC solicitation period ends Dec 11 and Now More Than Ever we have to use our time strategically to meet the CFC Objectives. We may have to go and touch some others people's heart as a reminder that the causes that inspired our willingness to participate in the CFC are still alive.

If you prefer to donate to Local Organizations, they are listed on pages 20 to 24 of the Participating Agencies Guide. You'll be surprised at how many entities can benefit from your help.

Remember the CFC starts with "0" every year. Do it today. Do it now. Contact your CFC Coordinator. As always, thanks for your support. Now is your turn to ask yourself: if iCan make a difference in someone else's life? iCan make a change and ...I will.

Thanks again to those that already filled their pledges. Your participation in the CFC is strictly voluntary and also tax deductible.

**iCan**

**Now More  
Than Ever**

## Fort Buchanan presents CAPECO awards



Certificate of Appreciation presented to Rick Mora, AAFES Manager.



Charlie Burgos and Jose Miranda from DOL received Civilian Achievement Awards.



Civilian Achievement Award was presented to Miguel Ortiz from Civilian Personnel Advisory Center (CPAC).



Certificate of Appreciation presented to Eugenio Choisne and Magda Rivera from the Command Group.



LTC Angel Viruet, IG and his son Anthony Viruet received Civilian Achievement Awards.



Certificate of Appreciation presented to Miguel Aponte by Col. Domingo and Jose Ortega, Acting DPTMS.



Alberto Velez received Civilian Achievement Award from Col. Domingo and Alfredo Noguerras, Safety Officer.



Members of DES received Civilian Achievement Awards during the Townhall.



Left - Employees from the Directorate of Human Resources received Certificate of Appreciation.

Right - Maria Morales, Director DHR received Civilian Achievement Award from Col. Domingo.







## during Town hall meeting



Employees from the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center received Certificate of Appreciation.



Employees from Resource Management Office received Certificates of Appreciation from Col. Domingo and Steven Gray, Director, RMO.



Network Enterprise Center employees received received Civilian Achievement Awards.



DOL employees received Certificates of Appreciation.



Employees from the Directorate of Public Works received Civilian Achievement Awards.



Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security received Civilian Achievement Awards.



Employees from the Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation received Civilian Achievement Awards.



Directorate of Emergency Services employees received Certificate of Appreciation.



Military personnel were also recognize with Civilian Achievement Awards for their support during CAPECO emergency.



Directorate of Public Works received Certificate of Appreciation.



Fort Buchanan directors received the Commander's Achievement Awards for their services.





## PRimeros in the News



COL (P) Fernando Fernandez  
Commander  
1st Mission Support Command

Holiday season is here again and traditionally it is a time for joy, laughter and family. But specially at this time, we must pause and take time to remember and pray for all members of the United States Armed Forces that are currently in harm's way serving abroad in theaters of war and potential contingencies. Since taking command of the Army Reserve's 1st Mission Support Command, I have personally been witness to the departure of a significant number of Soldiers of our command to support overseas contingency operations. These Soldiers will not have the opportunity to share this holiday season with their loved ones as we will do. Let's not forget their sacrifice and that of the family members that support them as they fulfill their voluntary obligation to defend our Nation against all threats and specially against the threat of terrorism.

Yes, the job of a Soldier is not the easiest, yet for many persons it is always expected from Soldiers to endure and drive on. But these Soldiers do not do it because it is expected; they do it because they're special. They're special because they are part of a

selected group of American citizens which is willing to sacrifice now in order to ensure a better future for their families and our Nation as a whole.

I deeply appreciate the selfless sacrifice, patriotism and dedication of this outstanding group of men and women that although knowingly accepting the pain caused by force separations, still thrive in the satisfaction of doing their jobs to best of their ability. They do it, in many instances, more than once and they make us proud as they work day and night regardless of how they feel or how harsh the environment in order to accomplish their mission.

Our Nation is truly blessed by the quality and commitment of these special few that are currently serving in our Armed Forces. As the new commander for the 1st Mission Support Command, I will do my utmost to ensure that our Soldiers and their families not only receive the best training and services but also that they receive the support that they need before, during and after their deployment separations.

I will like to close out by reinforcing the commitment of our Command to the Army's safety procedures and guidelines. Let's work together to make this a happy and accident free holiday season. I also will like to personally wish a very happy holiday season to all members of the 1st Mission Support Command and of the Fort Buchanan U.S. Army Garrison. May all share in wishing for this to be a time of family unity and of thanking God for all the blessings that our great Nation enjoys. May peace be with all of you and that you all have a prosperous 2010 new year.

COL (P) FERNANDO FERNANDEZ  
Commander, 1st Mission Support Command

"I deeply appreciate the selfless sacrifice, patriotism and dedication of this outstanding group of men and women that although knowingly accepting the pain caused by force separations, still thrive in the satisfaction of doing their jobs to best of their ability."

W e l c o m e   b a c k  
t r o o p s !



On 18 Nov 09 more families were blessed with the arrival of Soldiers from the 271st HR Company (postal) after one year of being deployed to Iraq. These Soldiers, 1LT Jose Allende, CW2 Ruben Rodriguez, SFC Ulises Marrero, SSG Quecha Perez, SGT Derrick Guevara, SGT Bernnis Burgos, SSG Carmen Hernandez and SGT Ramon Morales, arrived with perfect timing for their families to make these coming holidays better than ever with a very special meaning in their hearts.



On 20 Nov 2009, LTC David Jones, MAJ Angel Montalvo, MAJ Jose Rosa, CPT Ismael Torres, SSG Kyle Kingsley and SSG Orlando Ortiz, Soldiers from the 602nd EN Det arrived at San Juan's International Airport after one year of being deployed to Iraq. As you can see by the pictures, the happiness of family and friends was overwhelming. As a general consensus they all agreed that this coming Thanksgiving celebration was going to be the best ever.





# Field Training Exercise 2009 "Operation Soup Eaters"

Sgt. 1st Class Alfonso Flores  
1st MSC PAO

The 1st Mission Support Command Field Training Exercise (FTX) 2009 served as an excellent opportunity for the units of the 393rd Combat Service Support Battalion (CSSB) to come together for the first time and demonstrate their abilities in a tactical environment. Units that participated in the FTX were: HHC, 215th Military Police Detachment, 271st HR Postal Company, 301st Military Police Company, 389th Finance Detachment, 413th Finance Detachment, 430th Quartermaster Company, and the 973rd Quartermaster Company. The exercise named "Operation Soup Eaters" in recognition of the sponsoring county locals, the Ceibeños also known as

"Los Come Sopa", took place at the former Roosevelt Roads Naval Station in Ceiba. This idea was born as an initiative of the Battalion Staff in order to provide more realistically training to all assigned subordinate units. During other exercises such as Tradewinds and QLLEXs, Quartermaster units have been able to execute their war time mission during their Annual Training Operations.

The exercise began with a convoy and movement of troops from Ft. Buchanan to Roosevelt Roads Naval Station. With the collaboration of Roosevelt Roads Installation Commander, Cmdr. Kalaf, these units were able to set up Forward Operations Base (FOB) Lion near a submarine dry dock. Once settle at the FOB, Soldiers were able to plan and execute their mission essential tasks (METL). Such tasks included communications training, setting up a radio and satellite system in order

to acquire radio communications and set secure internet connectivity (NIPERNET Access).

Water purification training was also complete successfully by the 973rd QM Co. The training required the unit to utilized equipment to collect water from the ocean, purify it, and then provide the final product of potable water to be used within FOB Lion. Field service operations were supplied by the 430th QM Co. which served as an excellent way to put into practice their military skills.

Soldiers were exposed to many training events, beginning with a 3.5 mile road march which included different scenarios where Soldiers were quick to react; convoy lanes operations; military operation on urban terrain (MOUT)

training: basic, intermediate and advanced, and combative training. Also numerous pyrotechnics were used in this exercise with the purpose of making the environment as "real world" as possible.

Thanks to the cooperation of Cpt. Vicens from the PR Air National, three UH 60 Black Hawks were incorporated into the exercise to transport Soldiers from Fort Buchanan to FOB Lion.

The Soldiers received the visits of the 166th Provisional Command Commander, Col. Alfredo Gerena and representatives from the 1st MSC, Operations Directorate-G3. All of them indicated that overall it was excellent training with a great outcome. Troop motivation was always high, missions were executed and completed and the experience was very positive.

With over 350 troops on the ground it was of the essence to maintain command and control of all eight units. A challenge met with excellence by the battalion's leadership and unit commanders.

Col Gerena, LTC Louis Feliciano, 393rd CSSB Commander, and MAJ Gilberto Soto, bat



Members of the P.R. Air National Guard participated in "Operation Soup Eaters" with three UH 60 Black Hawks.



"Operation Soup Eaters", the Field Training Exercise 2009, held at Roosevelt Roads Naval Station provided potable water and field service to Ceiba, Naguabo, Fajardo and Humacao during the exercise.



The Field Training Exercise - FXT 2009 - joined HHC, 215th Military Police Detachment, 271st HR Postal Company, 301st Military Police Company, 889th Finance Detachment, 413th Finance Detachment, 430th Quartermaster Company and the 973rd Quartermaster Company

talion XO, expressed their sincere gratitude to the Mayor of Ceiba Pedro Colon through a letter of appreciation along with a token in remembrance of this important event.

The staff wanted to create a similar scenario in which they could take advantage of this training opportunity, trained well, and provided potable water and Field Service within an exercise and to the communities in the surrounding counties (Ceiba, Naguabo, Fajardo, and Humacao) as well. It was a great way to give back to the local community by providing such services that were of necessity to their residents.







*As we count our blessings every day, we are proud to belong to a family with a long legacy of cooperation with our sister services and the community. Cooperation and support evident in the many initiatives worked together throughout the year with one goal in mind - to serve.*

*As we end 2009 and stand in the threshold of a New Year, we thank you, our readers, for your stories and your photos, but most of all for sharing the good things you do - be it sports, safety, health, informa-*

*tional items, religious articles, etc. In other words, information that tells the world who you are, what you do and how you help others. Active duty, Reserves, National Guard, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guardsmen, Civilians, veterans, retirees, family members who take pride in the services you provide. Your endless efforts and sacrifices helps us preserve the privilege of living and working in a democracy and reaping the benefits of the promise of peace made by our forefathers.*

*For many years, you have allowed us the privilege to be your voice. El Morro has been instrumental in getting the word out and being part of your life. Today we ask you to take some time during these Holidays and reflect on our servicemen and women deployed around the world.*

*To the civilian community, we would like to thank you for your service and support to our warriors, our heroes.*

*To the families of our Soldiers, we would like to thank you for sharing your loved ones with us to defend the pillars of our nation - freedom and democracy.*

*To our Soldiers, here and around the world, our most humble thank you. You among all know the meaning of the Holidays - because you forego personal comfort, safety, and sacrifice time with your loved ones, to allow us to live in peace and freedom.*

*To all our readers, thank you for your support and...Happy Holidays!*



